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# PULSE

Your guide to Purple Line news,  
information and events

JULY 2022

## Message from Matt

We kicked off the summer with a listening tour, hosting seven Community Advisory Team (CAT) meetings in every community along the Purple Line in June. It was a great chance to reconnect, introduce our new team members and dive into our construction plans.

These in-person meetings—held twice each week—were very well attended. It's wonderful to see so many people committed to their neighborhoods and interested in the project. We appreciate the time residents took to watch the presentation, ask questions and offer input.

We heard you loud and clear. You are ready to see significant progress, and we intend to deliver.

The first goal of these meetings was to introduce the community to the new design-build team, Maryland Transit Solutions (MTS). Since officially coming on board April 15, MTS has been mobilizing their team in the field and preparing for the next stage of construction. We are reviewing their schedule and will provide many more updates via the Purple Line newsletter, website, and social media channels.

If you missed any of the meetings, don't worry. You can review the presentations, as well as questions and answers at [purplelinemd.com](https://purplelinemd.com).

The team continues to make progress on the project. The new and improved College Park Bus Loop was reopened for service on June 12, providing more bays for Metrobus, The Bus, Shuttle-UM, MDOT MTA Commuter Bus and the FDA Shuttle.

Paving operations commenced in multiple locations, including Arliss Street and Piney Branch Road in Montgomery County, and Annapolis Road, Ellin Road and University Boulevard in Prince George's County.

Our commitment to being responsive to your concerns continues. If you have any issues related to construction, you can email us at [outreach@purplelinemd.com](mailto:outreach@purplelinemd.com) or call our hotline, 443-451-3706 (English) or 443-451-3705 (Spanish).



Matthew Pollack, PE, PMP

Sign up to receive construction notifications at [purplelinemd.com](https://purplelinemd.com)

# Construction Photo/Update:



Photos clockwise from left: (Before) Crews from Pleasants Construction begin milling work on Ellin Road in front of the New Carrollton Metro Station. (After) Paving is completed for a smooth new ride. (Before) Crews from Pleasants Construction start work on Piney Branch Road in Silver Spring. (After) Paving is complete between Arliss Street and University Boulevard.

## Business Spotlight: Three Brothers Pizza

For decades, Three Brothers Pizza in Hyattsville has been a community fixture for pizza, pasta, subs, calzones, wraps and other fresh dishes.

Cesar Labastida, who has owned the restaurant since 2001, expects the Purple Line, which will pass by his business, to help deliver customers. "The Purple Line will be a great success once completed and will generate higher sales to all businesses in the area," he said.

Three Brothers Pizza is open Monday - Thursday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Delivery is available through UberEATS or DoorDash.



The Three Brothers store at the corner of Riggs Road and University Boulevard will be a short walk from the Riggs Road Purple Line Station.

More information, including locations of Labastida's restaurant and others in the chain, can be found at [threebrotherspizza.com](http://threebrotherspizza.com).

To learn about other businesses along the corridor, please visit: [purplelinemd.com/business-engagement/business-spotlights](http://purplelinemd.com/business-engagement/business-spotlights).



Cesar Labastida is pictured with Purple Line Business Liaison Marlene Veras.



# Purple Line Fast Fact:

26%



**DESIGN SERVICES**  
**GOING TO SMALL AND**  
**MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES**



## People Behind the Purple Line: Julio Velez, Maryland Transit Solutions Construction Manager

Julio Velez comes to the Purple Line project with more than 25 years of experience in project, construction and program management. He oversees every aspect of the project's construction, including the schedule, subcontractors and work specifications.

Most recently, Julio played a key role in two huge New York City projects, the Queens-Midtown Tunnel rehabilitation and the East Side Access Project. He worked for seven years on the East Side Access Project, the largest capital project for New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). It included a new terminal for the Long Island Railroad beneath Grand Central Station, 40 miles of new track and modernization of the busiest intersection of passenger train lines in North America.

The Purple Line's underground cavern in Bethesda will require similar drilling and blast techniques and a similar suspended concrete arch concept that was deployed on the East Side Access Project. Experience working in densely populated urban areas is also an important part of delivering the Purple Line.

"We're definitely used to doing very large projects," Julio said. "I'm excited to get to work and complete this transit project for Maryland."

